9.10 COVID CC1   SKK   09/10/2020   ThursPM/FriAM

Arkansas added nearly 400 new daily COVID-19 cases to its total as the cumulative number of cases nears 67,000.

The number of cases comes as Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced he will hold the final weekday COVID-19 briefing tomorrow (Friday) and will instead switch to a weekly update or on an as-needed basis.

Speaking on the decision, Hutchinson cited a greater accessibility of COVID-19 data from the Arkansas Department of Health as one reason for the change, though fewer briefings does not mean the dangers of COVID-19 have diminished.

NEWS06   :21   "…attention to this"
"Just because we're not having a daily update does not mean that we are not in an emergency. We continue to be in an emergency as long as we have the national emergency as well as we have the case counts that we're having. That emergency continues and it's not going to diminish my attention to this, Hutchinson said.

According to numbers from the Arkansas Department of Health, the total number of COVID-19 cases in the state is now 66,804. The number of hospitalizations decreased by 19, for a total of 392 hospitalized. Those on a ventilator decreased by three. That total is now 79.

12 more Arkansans have died from COVID-19 in the state, bringing the death toll to 940. Of those cases, the Department of Health says three of them were delayed reports.

Pulaski county led the state in new cases with 72. Washington county added 37, while Jefferson county added 33. Hutchinson spoke on Washington county's numbers, which have been lower than recent highs of over 200 cases last week.

NEWS07   :08   "…on that"
"I hope that's an indication that we're making progress at the University of Arkansas and I know that they're working very diligently on that," Hutchinson said.

According to the University of Arkansas Fayetteville's COVID-19 dashboard, there are a total of 888 active COVID-19 cases on campus, with 90 of them added between September 7 and 8. The state has previously said that there will be a delay between when universities report cases and when said cases show up in state data.